NISHAD): (a) and (b) The nature and magnitude of the indoor air pollution depends upon the number of occupants and their activities, ventilation system, nature and quality of fuel used for heating purposes, impact of outdoor pollution etc. It is not possible to make a general statement on the extend of indoor pollution vis-a-vis outdoor pollution. The report of the study by M/s Arctic India Sales presents data indicating higher indoor air pollution in terms of carbon dioxide concentration, but it does not clearly bring out pollution level 10 times higher than the outside environment.

(c) and (d) The problem of indoor air pollution results mainly from inadequate ventilation. In order to solve this problem it is necessary to create awareness among people and by appropriate designing of buildings so that natural ventilation is achieved.

The measures taken to check indoor and outdoor pollution include the following:-

(a) The Government is implementing two Central sector schemes, namely, National Programme on Improved Chulha and National Project on Biogas Development which caters to family-size biogas plants. The Government is also providing subsidy and other incentives for promotion of these devices in the rural areas with the objective to reduce/eliminate level of smoke in/from the indoor environment.

(b) Ambient air quality standards have been prescrabed for major pollutants for the different areas.

(c) Emission standards have been notified for the major categories of polluting industries.

(d) Industries have been directed to instal necessary pollution control equipment within a stipulated time-frame and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

(e) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

(f) Environmental clearance based on impact assessment and associated studies has been made compulsory for major specific projects.

(g) Vehicular emission standards have been notified uder the Motor Vehicles Ruels, 1989.

(h) Unleaded petrol with catalytic converter fitted vehicles has been introduced in four metropolitan cities to begin with.

Revival of degraded forests

47. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a massive programme for afforestation, wasteland development and regeneration of degraded forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Panchayati Raj Institutions could help in the implementation of this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (c) Activities related to afforestation, wsteland development and regeneration of degraded forests are taken up under the 20-Point Programme through various schemes of Central Ministries such as Ministry of Environment & Forests, Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, Ministry of Agriculture & Co-operation and of State/UT Governments. Targets under the 20-point programme are fixed annually keeping in view the funds available. Participation of Panchayati Raj Institution and other village level organisations in implementation of these programmes is encouraged.

Visit of Indian team to Nepal regarding illegal trade of wildlife products

48. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether a team of Government officers has been sent to Nepal to evolve joint strategy to check increasing illegal trade in wildlife products and timber along the Indo-Nepalese border;